

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard Street, Wailuku | (808) 244-7353 | Email: office@iaoucc.org



Pastor Lauren's Rainbow Connections
... because God's love is FULL SPECTRUM!



🎵 "Summertime... and the livin' is easy..." 🎵

Remember that line from *Porgy and Bess*? Well, here at 'Īao UCC, summertime may not always be "easy," but it's certainly **vibrant**! The easy part? Gratitude — for **you**, and for all the comings and goings, the worship and collaboration, the faithfulness and commitment that colors every season of our shared life.

Here's just a glimpse of what this summer has already held — and continues to bring:

By the time you read this...

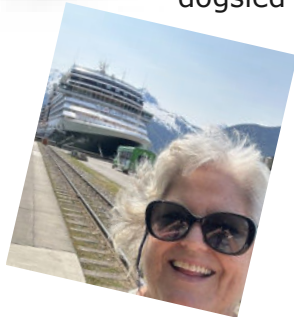
~ We'll have hosted a joyful presence at the **Market Street Pride Festival**, sharing aloha and rainbow love with our wider community. See Justice and Witnessing article with pictures.



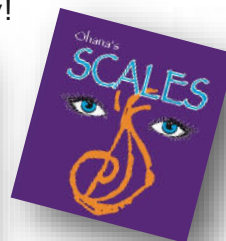
~ We'll have celebrated our beloved **fathers and father figures**, and welcomed Pastors Scott and Roxanne into our worship space with warmth and joy.



~ I'll have returned from an **Alaska adventure** and reunion with high school friends from Kwajalein — full of stories, laughter, and reveling in the grandeur of God's creation. (ask me about the thrilling dogsled ride and the goofy thing I did in Ketchikan!)



~ We'll have observed **Open and Affirming Sunday** (June 29) with our Youth and young adults leading and a visit from Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus, sharing a scene from "**Scales**," a youth opera inspired by Maui's own mo'o legends — mystical, magical, and meaning-full. It was a terrific way to wrap up **Pride Month** and a celebration of belonging, imagination, and divine diversity!



(Pastor's reflections continue)

🎵 Speaking of music, we offer a big mahalo and aloha to **Christophe Javon**, our June musician, and a warm welcome to **Ms. Niko Nemoto**, our July worship accompanist who brings her faith, joy, and keyboard gifts to bless our summer Sundays.

Looking ahead to July 13 (yeah, the day **after** our super smashing Rummage Sale/Bazaar!), I'm dreaming up a retelling of the **Good Samaritan** story in song — and I need a few bold and joyful voices! There may be some light acting involved... are you curious? Adventurous? Willing? I promise it'll be laid back and fun! I'm proposing two rehearsals: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (July 2 & 9) Let me know if you're game!



As we continue celebrating our **130th Anniversary as a church**, here's a fun historical note: July 7, 1965 is when **ENDO Hall** got its name! I'm planning a simple but meaningful blessing of this space at 3:00 p.m. on July 7 — timed to coincide with our Food Pantry ministry and volunteers. ENDO Hall has served many purposes and now houses our renovated, relocated **church offices**. So much aloha went into this project — and we look forward to giving thanks together.

Even in the long, sunny days of summer, **God is still speaking** — in our worship, our advocacy work, our laughter, our mutual support, and our daily living. Whether the living feels easy or not, God's love is always shining through — full spectrum, full of delight, and always **extravagantly welcoming**.



With aloha and rainbow blessings, *Pastor Lauren*

RUMMAGE SALE



Co Chairs: Dawna Krueger 808.281.5052 and Susan King 808.276.7523

Vendors: Dawna

Church Crafters: Dale

Baked Goods: Anna**

Plants: Howard

Tents: B&G

Finances: Gail and Shrue

BBQ: Danny, Kalani and Youth

Rummage: Susan

Kosraean Booths and Entertainment: Youlida

Food Handlers Permit: Jackie

****All baked goods are required to list ingredients on each individual item.**

Our food permit only allows us to provide our BBQ food to the public.

We may serve lunch to our workers/volunteers.

A colorful poster for the LaoUCC Bazaar & Rummage Sale. The poster features a yellow and white checkered background with a string of colorful triangular flags at the top. The text reads: "LaoUCC Bazaar & RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY JULY 12, 2025 8AM-2PM". Below the text are icons for various activities: a box of baked goods for "Bake Sale", a craft project for "Craft Sale", a plant for "Plant Sale", a grill for "BBQ", and a guitar for "Entertainments (Including Kawika Boro)". The address "2371 W. Vineyard St. Wailuku (808) 244-7353" is listed at the bottom.

LaoUCC Bazaar & RUMMAGE SALE
SATURDAY JULY 12, 2025 8AM-2PM

- Bake Sale
- Craft Sale
- Plant Sale
- BBQ
- Entertainments(Including Kawika Boro)


2371 W. Vineyard St. Wailuku
(808) 244-7353

Sermon Text

July 6: Ephesians 2:13-22


July 13: Luke 10: 25-37


July 20: Luke 10: 38-42


July 27: Luke 11:1-13




Greeter	Warren Orikasa
Reader #1	Darcean Phillip
Reader #2	Carly Defang
Technicians	Sonny Yoruw / Jay-Dee Hadley
Aloha Hour-	6/6 Akitake Family
	6/13 Lynette Shiroma/ Dawna Krueger
	6/20 Dale Schwarz/ Jackie Murai
	6/27 Maui Etawi



*Joy Yamane,
Jane Tesoro,
Our Fundraising
Efforts,
And Our World*

Now that Pride “Month” is past...



HOW CAN I BE A STRONG ALLY?

- Be inclusive and invite your LGBTQ+ family and friends to hang out with you and your family/friends - supporting them unconditionally.
- Confront your own prejudices, bias and stereotypes and believe that everyone, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect.
- Attend events that are important to the LGBTQ+, gender variant, and intersex communities. Exude strength and authenticity as an ally!
- Be willing to find ways you can make a difference in your community by advocating politically, educating people, and engaging in the issues that LGBTQ+, gender variant, and intersex people face.
- Most importantly, be willing to talk, to listen and be OPEN-MINDED!

HUMAN

@BCBSMICHIGAN

A PRAYER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE & EQUITY

By Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of Jerusalem

O God of all justice and peace
 We cry out to you
 in the midst of the pain and the trauma of violence
 and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.
 Be with those who need you
 in these days of suffering.
 We pray for people of all faiths,
 Jews, Muslims and Christians,
 and for all people of the land.
 While we pray to you, O Lord,
 for an end to the violence
 And the establishment of peace,
 We also call for you to bring justice
 and equity to the peoples.
 Guide us into your kingdom,
 Where all people are treated
 with dignity and honour as your children.
 For to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father.
 In Jesus' name we pray
 Amen.

**Mission Statement of
`Iao UCC:**
**We are a people of God,
living and sharing
the love of Christ
and reflecting that love
in words and actions."**

On June 15, the congregation was treated to some beautiful singing by the youth from Lanai Union Church who attended the `Aha Youth Event. They expressed their mahalos for our hospitality before catching the ferry home.



🎹 Meet Ms. Niko Nemoto 🎹 who will be our accompanist for the month of July.

"I'm from Japan and this is my 23rd year on Maui. This beautiful island and people have become my home and family. I work for a resort as a concierge. In my spare time, I love holoholo to appreciate nature, meet people, find interesting things, enjoy eating and watching baseball if I'm not practicing the piano at home." Welcome Niko!



"Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
proclaim his salvation day after day"
(1 Chronicles 16:23)



July ONLY

Our Ladies Lunch Bunch will be held on July 11 as the 4th is a holiday.

(After lunch, we'd love some help with our Rummage/Bazaar set up, if you can stick around!)

Because God's Word is always a source of encouragement, here are some Bible verses and prayers to guide you this month.

1. Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

My prayer: May God's perfect plans for your life unfold beautifully this month.

2. Isaiah 40:31 – "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

My prayer: May God renew your strength and help you soar above every challenge.

3. Philippians 4:19 – "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of God's glory in Christ Jesus."

My prayer: May God meet every need in your life and provide more than enough for you.

4. Psalm 23:1 – "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

My prayer: May you lack nothing good this month as God leads you beside still waters.

5. Proverbs 16:3 – "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and God will establish your plans."

My prayer: May all your plans succeed as you commit them to God this month.



Buildings and Grounds Community



1. Paul Lackey finished modifying Kanda Hall's new kitchen screen door by cutting it shorter to fit the door opening. Daniel Kamidoi hung the security screen door. Paul had also, previously, installed Kanda's new kitchen door. Locks to be installed at a later date.
2. Pride flag was put up to dedicate June as Pride Month.
3. The "Private Property" and "No Trespassing" signs were posted on each building. Thanks to Alan Yamamoto for his help.
4. B&G helped the Justice and Witnessing Community set up the pop-up tent on Market Street. They took the tent, table, chairs to Market Street to represent our church at the Pride Festival.
5. B&G cut out the curbing by the steps coming up to the lanai between the sanctuary and the pre-school fence. It was decided to make it our loading dock for the Foodbank delivery service. Foodbank graciously is helping us because we were short on trucks and manpower to make the pickups. We're hoping this service will continue.
6. Thanks to Bryn Turner and Cynthia Snell for taking the lead on the Church Workday, June 28. Much Mahalo! Did I forget to thank Bryn, Cynthia and Alan for helping with power washing and painting Fujimoto Hall exterior when Nancy Disher and HI Rebuild were here? Because Lahaina Wildfire projects weren't ready, we were the last minute recipients of their offer to help, painting Fujitomo and placing the pavers outside Endo Hall. It was a scramble, but we got it done thanks to everyone. A special mahalo to Nancy Disher and her California group!
7. Thanks to Bryn for helping to address our sound system and Facebook broadcasting problems. It's still a work in progress and we need more people to learn to become sound techs.
8. All vacuum cleaners have been serviced, cleaned and are in working order now.
9. Still need to meet with B&G members to discuss dog request from renter. Per Shelly Kusunoki, if dog request is okayed additional information will be added to lease. A separate dog lease?



HI Rebuild Group

Respectfully submitted, Dennis Hashiro

Community Members: Dennis Hashiro, Daniel Kamidoi, Howard Ikeda, Paul Lackey,



Learning Community

Dawna Krueger, Coreen Matsui-Lackey, Youlida Yoruw, Anela Awai-Stewart and Srue Sigrah.



We want to send our a big *KULO* to the Johannes family. They have been presenting the Sunday School lessons in the month of June, providing learning and fun all rolled into one.

The Sunday school will be hosting a bracelet making tent at our Bazaar/Rumage Sale fundraiser!





Iao Preschool Community

Tim Stewart, Bert Akitake, Sanoe Awai, Susan King, Director Fley Iniba

June was filled with an exciting bus excursion to the Maui Ocean Center and a walking excursion to the Wailuku Library. And we can't forget the fathers and father figures, who joined their child(ren) for a wonderful breakfast on Friday, June 13th. Birthdays and holidays were celebrated, and chapel time with Pastor Lauren and Auntie Dawna was enjoyed. We are learning a cute rainbow song and 'pu pu hinu hinu' to share at our graduation coming up on July 18!

Wrapping up the month was our annual "Butterfly fun night" when the children who will be moving on to kindergarten get to stay at school, eat a fun dinner (we walked to McDonald's!), play games and watch a movie. The evening of festivities ended at 8:30pm.



From Justice & Witnessing Community

Gerald Montano, Shannon Ribao, Jaime Ribao, Cheryl Matsui

Recent activities of our Justice and Witnessing community included attending the "No Kings" Rally on June 14th. Attendance was upward to 5,000, per event organizers. The Maui Pride Festival (held the same day) was also a success. Mahalo to all the volunteers who helped with shifts. A big shout out to Shannon Ribao for organizing us and getting a table for Iao UCC. Per Rev WhiteLight, Iao UCC was the only church there, signaling our commitment as an Open & Affirming Congregation. (our next meeting is pending, but we encourage everyone to keep an eye out for ways to advocate for peace and justice in our world!)



Worshipping Community, June 2025

Pentecost Sunday - Special thanks to Katherine, Carly, Sophie and girls who helped Pastor to decorate the Sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday! It was a joyful celebration!



June was a busy month with Pastor Lauren's absence. We are very grateful that she prepared so well for each week, inviting Pastors Scott Landis and Roxanne WhiteLight to lead us in worship June 15 and 22.

Looking forward to Pastor Lauren's return to the pulpit on June 29 when the Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus join us in worship and share their amazing talent.

Christophe Javon's last Sunday as our accompanist was June 29 as well and in July, Ms. Niko Nemoto will be accompanying us.

Mahalo June Worship Leaders:

Greeter – Gerald Montano

Readers – Alaundra Lopez, Anela Awai Stewart;

Subs – Joyleen Phillip, Sanoe Awai

July Worship Leaders:

Greeter – Warren Orikasa

Readers – Darcean Phillip, Carly Defang



Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Kamidoi



Worshipping Community: Shannon Ribao, Jaime Ribao, Susan King, Rena Hayashi, Mayleen Phillip, Katherine Hashiro, Carolyn Kamidoi

Thanks to those of you have been able to provide refreshments for Aloha Hour . The time of food and fellowship that follow our service allows for greeting and catching up with each other.



For the month of June Mahalo to Youlida Yoruw, Mayleen Phillip, Cathrina Phillip, Katherine Hashiro, Caroline Kamidoi, Jackie Murai, Joy Yamaoka and the Etawi.



*Here are some of the ways you can
serve the Lord and 'Ia'o UCC
You are the "u"
in Volunteer!*

Door Greeters
Sunday School helpers
Newsletter writers
Graphics designers
Cleaning work, Yard work
Food Pantry volunteers
Website designers
Social Media hosts
Sound Techs
Projection Techs
Maintenance
Sanctuary Openers
Sanctuary Closers

ALSO!! We need some office support while Dawna is on her WELL-DESERVED vacation in late July—August. Sign up sheet is in the office! **MAHALO** for your kokua!

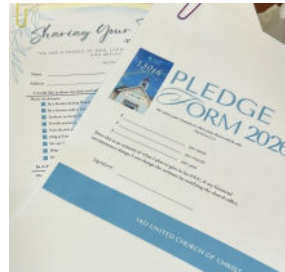


Stewarding Community

Jane Tesoro, Gail Ideue, Anna Mayeda, Youlida Yurow, Jackie Murai



Short and sweet this month. Injuries, vacations and illness have hit this community hard during the month of June... but we want to encourage everyone to participate in the July Rummage Sale and Bazaar. This is our first major fundraiser since 2018!



Looking forward to November, Anna Mayeda and Catelyn Johannes have created new pledge, time and talent forms. Much more user friendly.

Next month we will report the giving total for our "Strengthen the Church" special offer collected the month of June. (Mahalo for your generosity!)

On July 31, we will once again be providing dinner for the homeless shelter. We are calling on our dessert makers to help again. You may bring your goodies to Endo or Kanda Hall before 4pm that day. Mahalo

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are so proud of **Kawika (Kameron) Boro** who was recently nominated in 2 categories for the prestigious Na Hoku Hanohano awards. (Kawika is pastor Jack Belsom's grandson.)

So nice that Lauren Akitake was one of his in-person supporters that evening.

And in case you missed the awards ceremony, Kawika is on our entertainment schedule (12 noon) on July 12th at our Bazaar and Rummage sale!

Monthly Reoccurring Events

- *Office hours: 9 am-3 pm (808)244-7353 email: office@iaoucc.org or by appointment. Closed Fridays
- *Ladies Lunch Bunch: First Friday of the month. 11:30 am-2:00 pm on the church lanai.
- *Member Visitation: Second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm. Call/text Jane Tesoro @ (808)276-2663.
- *Food Pantry: (808) 446-7537 Mondays 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- *AA/Al-Anon meetings: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday assorted hours.
- *Kosraean Women: Friday 5:30-6:30 pm Contact Youlda Yoruw
- *Council Meeting: Last Wednesday of the month, 5:30 pm on zoom. Contact office for link
- *Kosrae Maui Church: Sundays at 3 pm
- *Maui Etawi Fellowship: Sundays at 4 pm
- *Kosrae Campus Workday: 4th Saturday of month. Contact Kotan Melander, President.



A beautiful letter from Pastor Roxanne WhiteLight and Ruth Langstraat, members of our community, our friends and mentors... who have these thoughts they wanted to share.

.June 9, 2025



Justice and Witnessing Committee, IAO United Church of Christ
2371 W Vinyard St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Friends,

We wanted to express our deep gratitude for the return of the pride flag to your flag pole. We drive by the church many times a week between our home and town, so we see it often. We missed it when it came down, but were at least glad to see it on the building. The only problem with the building is we could only see it from one direction.

We were filled with joy when the flag returned to the pole last week. Early in our life on Maui, we were going to Iao Valley State Park. When we passed the church for the first time, with the flag flying, we knew there would be a place for us on Maui.

For those who identify as LGBTQIA+ minorities, the rainbow flag is such an important symbol. It calls to mind a phrase from another flag song, "how proudly we hail." Thank you for standing strong with our community in times when persecution is on the rise and returning with a wild and scary surge.

We consider ourselves friends of your beloved community. Seeing this symbol reminds us of why we feel that way.

We have also been heartened by so many IAO members coming to the rallies that have been held on Maui to stand up in favor of our democracy.

Most sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Roxanne WhiteLight, Ruth Langstraat, MD
773 S. Alu Rd.
Wailuku, HI 96793
360 953 4963

All Church Clean-up and Tye Dye



July



Happy Birthday this month to:

7/3 Anela Awai-Stewart
7/11 Howard Ikeda
7/13 Jack Yoruw

7/5 Sophie Mongkeya
7/11 Kathy Tanaka
7/16 Coreen Matsui-Lackey

7/17 Jackie Murai

7/30 Francis Yinmed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30-7:30p AI Anon District K	2 9-10a AI Anon K	3 5:45p Pastoral Care Zoom	 Office closed <i>4th July</i> 5p WCA S 7p Kosraean Meeting S	5 AA 7-8 K
6 Communion Worshiping Community 3-6p. Kosrae Worship/ Etawi	7 11a-3p Food Pantry K 3p Endo Hall Blessing	8	9 9-10a AI Anon K 1pm Visitation	10 9:30a IPS Chapel S 7-8p. AA K	11 11:30a Ladies Lunch Bunch L 6-7 WCA S	12 Rummage/ Bazaar (6 am set up) 8-3
13 3-6 Kosrae Worship/ Etawi	14 11- 3 Food Pantry K 5:30p Kosraean Leadership K	15	16 9-10a AI Anon K	17 9:30a IPS Chapel S 7-8p. AA K	18 IPS Graduation S K 6-7 WCA S	19 AA 7-8 K
20 3-6 Kosrae Worship/ Etawi	21 11-3 Food Pantry K	22	23 9-10a AI Anon K lao Pepa articles Council Reports Due	24 I 9:30a PS Chapel S 8a Shelter Din- ner K 7-8p. AA K	25 6-7 WCA S	26 Campus Grounds Work Day 8-12 AA 7-8 K
27 3-6 Kosrae Worship/ Etawi (+children's program!)	28 11-3 Food Pantry K	29	30 AI Anon 9- 10 K ZOOM Council Meeting 5:45	31 IPS Chapel 9:30 S Shelter Dinner 8a K 7-8 p. AA K	*(WCA - Kosrae Women's Fellowship)	



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Wailuku, HI 96793-1626
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Office/Food Pantry (808) 244-7353
 Office hours: **Mon. to Thurs., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
 or by appointment

Email: office@iaoucc.org
 Website: iaoucc.org
facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

IN PERSON/VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Pastor	Lauren Buck Medeiros
Moderator	Shannon Ribao
Office Volunteer	Dawna Krueger
Pianist	Ms. Niko Nemoto
Newsletter	Dawna Krueger
Iao Preschool Director	Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.
**We are a people of God living and sharing
 the love of Christ through words
 and actions.**